

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a more secured passport booklet with comprehensive security features;

(b) if so, the details of the new passport booklets;

(c) whether all the Passport offices will issue such Passport booklets; and

(d) if so, the time by which such passport booklets are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As soon as possible during this year.

#### **Sale of French Nuclear Power Plant to Pakistan**

1701. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conveyed its concern to France over the sale of Nuclear Power Plant to Pakistan which is likely to have the effect of strengthening or expanding weapons oriented and clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme;

(b) if so, the reaction of the French Government thereto;

(c) whether French Government has been asked to enforce full-scope safeguards against Pakistan's manufacture of nuclear bomb and its other illicit activities in the nuclear fields; and

(d) the follow-up measures proposed to be taken by Government in the light of this development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The Government of India have conveyed their concern to France through diplomatic channels.

(b) and (c). France has stated that the nuclear power plant would be under IAEA safeguards and considers the sale to Pakistan a commercial proposition.

(d) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Financial Loss due to Operation of Private Courier Services**

1702. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of posts has at any stage made an assessment of the estimated financial loss caused to it annually by operation of Courier Services by private agencies throughout the country;

(b) whether the 'Speed Post' introduced by his Department has been able to check this private Courier Services;

(c) whether the Indian Postal Act gives the exclusive right of collection transport and delivery of all letters only to the Postal Department; and